

CALENDAR

MASSACHUSETTS PESTICIDE EXAM SCHEDULE

UMASS Eastern Extension Center—240 Beaver St., Waltham

MARCH 22.

MARCH 29. Deadline for submitting application is **MARCH 22.**

APRIL 5. Deadline for submitting application is **MARCH 29.**

CAPE COD COMMUNITY COLLEGE—Rte. 132, 2240 Iyanough Rd., West Barnstable

MARCH 20. Deadline for submitting application is **MARCH 13.**

QUESTIONS CALL—617-626-1785.

GROWERS REMAIN CALM AMID LOW MOISTURE LEVELS

By Jim Offner

Water tables are falling and lake levels are near record lows in the Northeast, but fruit and vegetable growers and shippers say they are not ready to panic.

"We have ample opportunities for additional rainfall," said Peter Forrence, vice president of Forrence Orchards, Peru, New York.

But few in the region's produce industry are oblivious to a dearth of moisture that has attracted national attention.

ABC News recently reported that Lake Champlain, on the Vermont-New York border, had drained to its lowest level in 30 years. Hulls of long-sunk ships are becoming visible. Officials from the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum in Vermont have been investigating sites never seen before.

The network reported Feb. 18 that reservoirs that serve New York City were far below their capacities and that remnants of a town that a flood had washed away in 1964 were peeking through the waters of the Cannonsville Reservoir, which the flood created.

Parts of 15 states along the Eastern Seaboard, from Maine to Georgia, are suffering through drought conditions. Two counties in Virginia have been declared drought emergency areas, with mandatory water restrictions, according to that state's Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Similar situations apply in parts of Pennsylvania, Connecticut and Maryland.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 2001 was the fourth-driest on record in the Northeast. The period between Oct. 1 and Dec. 31 was the second-driest fourth quarter on record.

"Last year, we did have an extremely dry season, and our total precipitation for this year is down," said Don Flannery, president of the Maine Potato Board, Presque Isle. "But we do have some good snow cover here in the northern part of the state.

Southern Maine has not been so fortunate, but that should come as no surprise, Flannery added.

"When you see dry conditions in Maine, it's to a varied degree, like any large state," he said.

According to the NOAA, a weather pattern that began last spring has persisted in pushing the jet stream north of the Great Lakes, walling off moist air- flows from the Gulf of Mexico and setting up a dry pattern over the Northeast.

The drought is a result of a long-term weather pattern that's often kept the jet stream north of the Great Lakes since last spring. That means moist air from the Gulf of Mexico hasn't been carried up the East Coast.

The so-called "fruit belt" of south central Pennsylvania, which provides more than half of that state's apples and stone fruit, endured lower volumes and smaller sizes due to the lack of moisture last season said John Rice, vice president of Rice Fruit Co.

"I can't recall, in the last 25 years, that we've had as big a water deficit as we had last year," said Rice.

The region has received little snow during the winter (much like most of New England, ed.), which seems certain to exacerbate the problem, Rice said.

"It's going to get worse," he said. "The water tables are low."

(Article from "THE PACKER", Feb. 25, 2002)

USAPPLE SAVES AZINPHOS METHYL USE

USApple preserved the continued availability of azinphos methyl (Guthion) for apple growers over the next four years by demonstrating its critical need to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) officials during their farm worker risk assessment process.

USApple partnered with land-grant university scientists to educate EPA officials about azinphos methyl and phosmet (Imidan) uses, and their importance to the apple industry.

Although the industry is determined to maintain the use of azinphos methyl, it still faces a precarious regulatory road ahead. EPA, after nearly five years of scientific debate, is entering the final phase of its cumulative review of organophosphate (OP) pesticides. Mandated by the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA), this review could result in additional regulatory restrictions on OP pesticides.

For more information, contact Jim Cranney at (703)442-8850.

(Article from USAPPIE "APPLE NEWS", March 2002)

APPLE SHIPMENT TRACKING

Source: USDA

Amounts are shown in units of 10,000 pounds

Season Begins	02/24/02- 03/02/02	02/17/02- 02/23/02	02/25/01- 03/03/01	Total this season 03/02/02	Total last season 03/03/01
SEPTEMBER	10,555	10,392	11,983	238,999	279,955

MID-WEEK F.O.B. PRICES AT MASSACHUSETTS COUNTRY SHIPPING POINT

Prices and grades received by telephone, MARCH 19, 2002

NO CHANGE

Controlled Atmosphere

VARIETY	GRADE	SIZE	PRICE
McINTOSH	Cartons Cell Pack U.S. Extra Fancy	80s	19.00
		96s	18.50
	Cartons Film Bags U.S. Fancy	12-3s 2-1/2" min	12.50
	Cartons Tote Bags U.S. Fancy	8-5s 2-1/2" min	14.00
CORTLAND	Cartons Cell Pack U.S. Extra Fancy	72s & 80s	18.00
	Cartons Film Bags U.S. Fancy	12-3s 2-1/2" min	12.50
	Cartons Tote Bags U.S. Fancy	8-5s 2-1/2" min	14.00
EMPIRE	Cartons Cell Pack U.S. Extra Fancy	80s	18.00
		96s	17.50
	Cartons Film Bags U.S. Fancy	12-3s 2-1/2" min	11.50
	Cartons Tote Bags U.S. Fancy	8-5s 2-1/2" min	13.00
RED DELICIOUS	Cartons Tray Pack U.S. Extra Fancy	80s & 88s	13.50
	Cartons Film Bags U.S. Fancy	12-3s 2-1/2" min	11.00
	Cartons Tote Bags U.S. Fancy	8-5s 2-1/2" min	13.00

FEDERAL MARKET NEWS SERVICE, EVERETT, MASS.

MARCH 15, 2002

Controlled Atmosphere

NEW ENGLAND			
McINTOSH	Cartons Cell Pack U.S. Extra Fancy	100s	20.00
		120s	15.00
	Cartons Cell Pack U.S. Fancy	80s	16.00-18.00
		96s	15.00-16.00
	Cartons Cell Pack U.S. No. 1	80s	12.00

		100s, 120s, 140s	9.00- 9.50
	Cartons Film Bags U.S. No. 1	12-3s 2-1/2" min	12.00
		12-3s 2-1/4" min	9.00-10.00
CORTLAND	Cartons Cell Pack U.S. Extra Fancy	72s	20.00
		80s	18.00
		96s	17.00
	Cartons Cell Pack U.S. No. 1	72s	15.00
		80s	12.00-15.00 mostly 15.00
	Cartons Film Bags U.S. Fancy	12-3s 2-1/4" min	15.00-16.00
SHIPPED IN			
McINTOSH	NY Hudson Valley Ctns CelPk U.S. ExFcy	80s & 100s	19.00-20.00
	Lake Champlain Ctns CelPk U.S. ExFcy	80s	22.50-23.50
		100s	20.00-22.00
	NY Hudson Valley Ctns CelPk U.S. No. 1	80s	11.00
		100s	10.00
		120s	9.50
	Lake Champlain Ctns FlmBg U.S. ExFcy	12-3s 2-1/2" min	12.00
	NY Hudson Valley Ctns FlmBg U.S. ExFcy	12-3s 2-1/4" min	10.00
CORTLAND	Nova Scotia Ctns CelPk MKD ExFcy	80s	22.00
EMPIRE	PA Cartons Cell Pack U.S. ExFcy	88s	17.00
HONEY CRISP	NY Hudson Valley Ctns CelPk U.S. ExFcy	48s, 56s, 64s	18.00
	NY Hudson Valley Ctns FlmBgs U.S. ExFcy	12-3s 2-1/2" min	7.50
RED DELICIOUS	WA Cartons Tray Pack WAExFcy	64s	16.00-18.00 mostly 17.00-18.00 fine appear. 19.00-21.00
		72s	16.00-17.00 fine appear. 19.00-21.00 mostly 20.00-21.00
		80s	16.00-18.00 fine appear. 19.00-21.00 mostly 20.00-21.00
		88s	16.00-17.00 fine appear. 19.00-21.00 mostly 20.00-21.00
		100s	16.00-18.00 mostly 16.00-17.00 fine appear. 18.00-20.00
		125s	15.50-18.00 mostly 16.00-18.00
GOLDEN DELICIOUS	PA Cartons Tray Pack U.S. ExFcy	100s	17.00
	WA Cartons Tray Pack WAExFcy	64s	24.00-27.00 mostly 26.00-27.00
		72s	24.00-27.00 mostly 26.00
		80s	23.00-25.00 mostly 24.00
		88s	22.00-24.00 mostly 24.00
		100s	21.00-24.00 mostly 22.00
		113s	19.00-20.00
		125s	18.00-19.00 mostly 18.00
	WA Cartons Cell Pack WAExFcy	80s	26.00-27.50
		96s	24.00-25.50
		120s	18.00
ROYAL GALA	WA Cartons Tray Pack WAExFcy	88s	26.00-28.00 mostly 26.00-27.00
		100s	24.00
RED ROME	PA Cartons Cell Pack U.S. ExFcy	80s	16.00
FUJI	WA Cartons Tray Pack WAExFcy	56s	23.00-24.00
		64s	25.00
		80s & 88s	23.00-24.00
		100s	21.00-22.00

JONAGOLD	WA Cartons Tray Pack WAExFcy	80s	22.00
CAMEO	WA Cartons Tray Pack WAExFcy	80s	22.00
	NY Western Section Ctns CelPk U.S. Extra Fancy	80s	17.00-19.00
PINK LADY	WA Cartons Tray pack WAExFcy	80s	29.00-32.00 mostly 30.00-32.00
GRANNY SMITH	WA Cartons Tray Pack WAExFcy	64s	28.00-29.00
		72s	27.00-28.00
		80s	24.00-26.00 mostly 25.00-26.00
		88s	24.00-26.00
		100s	19.00-22.00 mostly 20.00
		113s	18.00-19.00
		125s	17.00-19.00 mostly 17.00-18.00
	WA Cartons Film Bags WAExFcy	12-3s 2-1/2" min	16.50-18.00 mostly 18.00
CIDER	New England Preserved Cartons	4-1 gallon bottles	9.00- 9.40 mostly 9.00
		9 ½-gallon bottles	10.00 best 11.25

Howard Vinton,
Editor